

[M. Whiteman]

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Redfield, Georgia B.

Roswell, New Mexico

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Subject: Pioneer Story

Source of Information:

Mrs. Flora Miller (daughter

of M. Whiteman) Roswell,

N. M.

M. WHITEMAN

Opened First Exclusive Grocery Store in Roswell. Which Has Continued Operating Half a Century. Now Owned by A. L. Whiteman, Son of M. Whiteman.

M. Whiteman, is said by old timers to have been more widely known, and, because of his interesting personality and experience gained by extensive world-wide travels, to have possessed more friends than any other pioneer settler of Roswell.

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He was ever ready to impart to others from his large store of experience, any information, either for their pleasure, in entertaining his friends, or the financial or educational benefit of his fellow-man.

Mr. Whiteman, of German-Jewish descent, was born in Germany, near Berlin, in 1817. He was married to Mary Levey who was of the same nationality of Mr. Whiteman, and also was born in Germany near Berlin - in 1852. They were married in New York in 1876 1868 .

Of the six children born to the union: Joe, Louis, Charlie, A. L., Carrie, and Flora, only three are living: Louis, who lives in San Francisco, California, A. L., who lives in Roswell is married and has a son and daughter, and Flora, who is Mrs. Flora [W?]. Miller, now widowed, and living in Roswell. C18 - 6/5/41- N. Mex.

Mr. Whiteman when twenty-one years of age, while making his second tour of the world, was taken captive by South Sea Islanders. Before his escape from captivity, he learned much of the customs and characteristics of the people of that country which did not 2 compare favorably with other foreign countries visited by him.

Mr. Whiteman has the distinction and honor of becoming a charter member of the greatest national fraternal organization - the Masonic Lodge of New York City.

In 1878 Mr. Whiteman and his family moved to the White Oaks, New Mexico and was engaged in the mercantile business, at that place until he re-moved to Roswell in 1889 where he established the M. Whiteman Grocery business, in the store built by him at what is now [119?] So. Main Street, in which the Roswell Seed Company operates at the present time. Here he continued in business for seventeen years, until his death at eighty-nine years of age. His store became the favorite rendezvous of the young men of the town, as well as prominent business men and his brother lodge-men who enjoyed his stories of adventure and information of resources and business activities of foreign countries.

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Several years before the gold-rush to Alaska in the late 90's Mr. Whiteman had talked to the younger men in Roswell of the great opportunities for making [a?] fortune, they might find, where he had discovered gold when he had visited that country some twenty years before it was discovered by others.

With the exception of Louis Whiteman, who went to California before the Whiteman family moved to Roswell, all of the children were educated and grew to be valuable men and women citizens of in Roswell.

A. L. Whiteman is manager and owner of his father's old grocery business, which is now operated under the name of Whiteman Brother's Store, conducting a successful business with patronage largely from families of the pioneer settlers and ranch-men in the 3 Pecos Valley.

Mr. M. Whiteman's death occurred in Roswell in 1906 and Mrs. Mary Whiteman's, his wife, in 1931.

Mrs. Whiteman was known and loved as Mother Whiteman. She was never happier than during the first hard years of settlement in the new wild country of Southeast New Mexico, when she hospitably opened her doors to all new comers. The young people of Roswell in the early days enjoyed all the priviledges privileges and pleasures of her home, with her own boys and girls, who were popular during their school life and with their schoolmates and later in the social life of the city.

The Whiteman family stand high in the affectionate regard of the Roswell people.

Mr. M. Whiteman and his wife Mary (Levey) Whiteman will always be remembered and honored among tho'se who contributed most to the development and progress of Roswell and to the best interests of the people of Southeast New Mexico.